

Bert Bobb '63
2018 Mary Mildred Sullivan Award

Each year, Winthrop recognizes an alumna for selfless dedication of time, energy and talent in service to others. The Mary Mildred Sullivan Award captures this high honor. Maeberta "Bert" Bobb '63, who has been heavily involved with the Winthrop campus over the years as an administrator and faculty member, is the 2018 award recipient.

The Newberry, South Carolina, native earned her Bachelor of Science in physical education and health from what was then Winthrop College. She began her teaching career at the Furman School before deciding to continue her education at the University of Tennessee as a graduate teaching assistant.

Bobb received her Master of Science degree from Tennessee in 1966, then stayed two more years in Knoxville as an instructor and director of women's intramurals. After leaving Knoxville, Bobb took a job with Coker College, where she was an assistant professor of physical education and coached field hockey, basketball and volleyball.

By 1972, Winthrop beckoned her back to Rock Hill. She served as an assistant professor of physical and special education while coaching field hockey and basketball. In her spare time, Bobb earned an Ed.D. degree from the University of Georgia in 1977.

Bobb has served the Winthrop campus in numerous capacities over a 29-year span. In addition to teaching, she was an interim dean and associate dean for the School of Education and was an assistant to three presidents: Phil Lader, Martha Kime Piper and Anthony DiGiorgio. She also served as director of academic advising, director of student services, and was chair of the health and physical education department.

University administrators found that her leadership and work ethic were of great value to the institution.

A trailblazer for intercollegiate athletics for women, Bobb served on the South Carolina Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (SCAIAW), which placed her on the cutting edge of women's sports. Much of the growth of intercollegiate sport for women from the 1960's through now can be credited to pioneers such as Bobb.

She worked tirelessly on several sports associations as an officer and volunteer, such as the Southern Association for Women in Physical Activity, Sport & Health, S.C. Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance and the National Association for Physical Education in Higher Education. She also served on the Governor's Commission on Women for two terms. Among some of the awards given to Bobb are: Winthrop President's Citation, 1979; Winthrop President's Award, 1993; Distinguished Alumna by Winthrop's physical education department, 2003; and Winthrop Athletic Hall of Fame, 2008.